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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 NEW DELHI 002949

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [IN](#) [PK](#) [NSSP](#)

SUBJECT: JASWANT SINGH SUPPORTS THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 25 SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE

Classified By: Charge Robert O. Blake, Jr. for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[11](#). (C) Summary: Meeting with A/S Rocca and the Charge in New Delhi on April 18, former Foreign Minister and BJP leader Jaswant Singh expresses SIPDIS military aspects such as co-production. Singh implied that the Congress dominated United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government was Defense Co-production

[12](#). (C) Expressing complete BJP support for the Secretary's May 25 offer of co-production of multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA), Singh pointed

[13](#). (C) Referring to the Administration's South Asia announcements of March 25, Jaswant stated that "I accept this is a significant and meaningful Moving Forward

[14](#). (C) A/S Rocca pointed out that the US and India are currently building on a foundation Singh laid while Foreign Minister. Characterizing 5, (C) Singh characterized the US-India relationship as a "logical process," but that its pace will vary depending on the personalities Contrast With Congress

[16](#). (C) While happy with American commitment to upgrade its ties to India, Singh was not as enthusiastic about the UPA government. He complained

[17](#). (C) Singh advised the USG to have patience, noting that "a base must first be built before the process acquires a life of its own, and The Broader View

[18](#). (C) A/S Rocca agreed, noting that the USG has "a genuine desire to move now and strike while the iron is hot." She noted that the Administration India and China

[19](#). (C) Singh contrasted India, which he maintained has always been a nation, with its Asian rival China. Even under colonialism in the absence Trip to Washington

[20](#). (C) While he is trying to restrict his overseas travel, Singh noted that he plans to be in Washington in late May to revive his connection The Musharraf Visit

[21](#). (C) Singh was enthusiastic about the Musharraf visit and the improving Indo-Pak relationship, pointing out that "we are the same folks

[22](#). (C) Singh professed more comfort with Musharraf (whom he and former PM Vajpayee had met earlier in the day), saying that he had "much Musharraf's biggest problem is that no one in his government provides him with "candid advice on what he is not doing right." Singh pointed Graceful Conclusion

[23](#). (C) A/S Rocca concluded by noting that Singh should receive considerable credit for starting the current process of improved India/US Comment

[24](#). (C) The meeting was significant for the things that Singh did not say as much as for the things he did. During the past month, BJP leader 15, (U) A/S Rocca cleared this cable.

BLAKE